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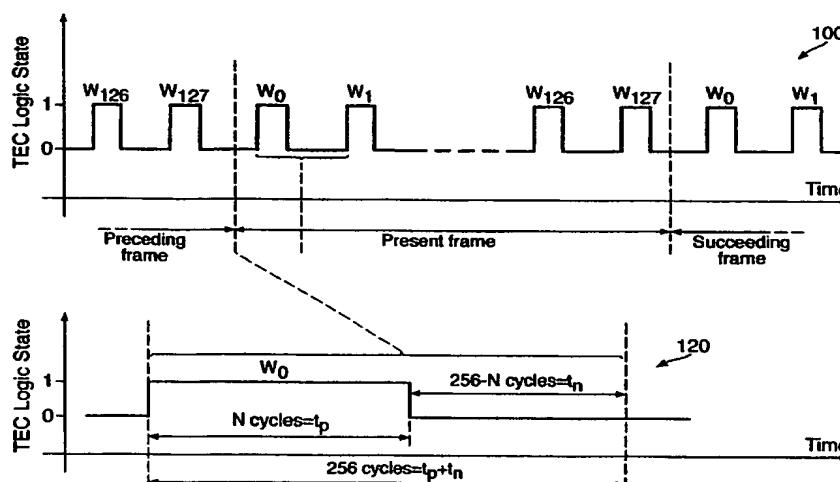
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING A PULSE WIDTH MODULATED SIGNAL AND OPTICAL ATTENUATOR CONTROLLED BY A PULSE WIDTH MODULATED SIGNAL



(57) Abstract: A method of generating a pulse width modulated (PWM) signal comprises: receiving digital demand data V_{control} comprising at least one more significant bit (bit_7 to bit_{14}) and at least one less significant bit (bit_0 to bit_6). The PWM signal comprises a sequence of one or more frames (100), each frame: comprising a plurality of PWM pulses (W_1 to W_{127}) whose duty cycle is substantially governed by the at least one more significant bit (bit_7 to bit_{14}); and having at least one of its PWM pulses selected to have its duty cycle modified in response to the at least one less significant bit (bit_0 to bit_6); each of the at least one less significant bit (bit_0 to bit_6) uniquely mapping onto the at least one selected PWM pulse of the frame (100). The invention is also concerned with apparatus operable according to the above method and an optical attenuator whose optical attenuation is dependent upon its temperature and in which the temperature and hence attenuation is controlled using the above PWM signal.

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